

Uniforms and Awards

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PART 1 - GENERAL UNIFORM INFORMATION

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Part 1 – General Uniform Information

12101 GENERAL

- A. NOAA Corps uniforms are distinctive visual evidence of the authority and responsibility vested in the wearer by the United States. All NOAA Corps officers shall dress in accordance with the traditions and customs of the uniformed service. NOAA Corps officers shall present a professional appearance that reflects positively on the individual, the NOAA Corps, and the United States.
- B. NOAA Corps Officers are responsible for procuring and maintaining an adequate supply of uniforms appropriate to their assigned duties.
- C. Professional standards of personal hygiene shall be demonstrated.
- D. Suggested changes to these Uniform Directives shall be submitted in writing to the Chair, Uniform and Awards Board. The following format is required:
 - (1) issue;
 - (2) discussion;
 - (3) alternatives;
 - (4) suggestion; and
 - (5) drawings, if appropriate.
- E. All questions concerning details of dress not resolved by these Directives shall be referred to the Uniform and Awards Board.

12102 AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS

- A. Authorized uniforms are those uniforms or uniform items that appear within these directives. Uniforms or uniform items not listed in these directives shall not be worn.
- B. Authorized uniforms are:

Formal Dress	Winter Blue
Dinner Dress Blue Jacket	Summer White
Dinner Dress White Jacket	Tropical White
Dinner Dress Blue	Service Khaki
Dinner Dress White	Winter Working Blue
Full Dress Blue	Working Khaki
Full Dress White	Tropical Khaki
Service Dress Blue	Working Coveralls
Service Dress White	Aviation Coveralls

Part 1 – General Uniform Information

- C. Optional items are accessory items that may be worn in addition to the basic uniform, and alternate items that may be substituted for a basic uniform component, at the discretion of the officer. Prescribed items are those optional items that a command may require based on a duty station, climate, nature of the assignment, or other factors. Maintenance of prescribed items is required.

12103 REQUIRED UNIFORMS

- A. ALL NOAA Corps officers shall maintain the basic and prescribed components of the required uniform.
- B. Required uniforms are:
 - (1) Service Dress Blue
 - (2) Winter Blue
 - (3) Summer White
 - (4) Service Khaki
 - (5) Working Khaki
- C. All NOAA Corps officers in the grade of lieutenant commander or above are required to maintain, in addition to the uniforms listed above:
 - (1) Dinner Dress Blue Jacket
 - (2) Dinner Dress White Jacket

12104 UNIFORM OF THE DAY

- A. The Uniform of the Day is the uniform prescribed for wear by all NOAA Corps officers within a Command or geographical area. NOAA Corps officers assigned to ships shall wear the Uniform of the Day aboard ships at sea or on duty aboard ships in port.
- B. The Uniform of the Day shall be similar to that prescribed for the Naval District in which the Command is located.
- C. Uniforms of the Day shall be designated in the terms used in these directives.

Part 1 – General Uniform Information

- D. Alternate Uniforms of the Day may be designated. These may be worn at the discretion of the individual NOAA Corps officer, in compliance with prescribing criteria.

12105 AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE

- A. Center commanding officers, commanding officers, aircraft commanders, or senior officers present shall prescribe the uniform of the season, day, or special occasion to be worn by all personnel within the limits of their command. Such prescription shall be made with the knowledge and consent of the Director. The Director shall prescribe the uniform to be worn in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.
- B. Commanding officers or aircraft commanders may authorize NOAA Corps officers under their command to deviate from uniforms prescribed when adverse or unusual field conditions render the prescribed uniforms impractical or inappropriate.
- (1) Protective clothing and equipment, not normally part of the uniform, may be issued, authorized, or required. The wearing of motorcycle helmets, industrial hats, safety shoes, coveralls, foul-weather gear, flotation jackets, blue or green working jackets (A-2), knit watch caps, sneakers, rubber boots, etc., to meet industrial and personal safety requirements is authorized, and may be mandatory at times.
- (2) Civilian clothing may be authorized or required for special operations.

12106 UNIFORM HEADGEAR

- A. The cap is an integral part of the uniform. However, a cap is only required with the formal dress, dinner dress blue jacket, or dinner dress white jacket uniforms when wearing an outer garment. Out-of-doors, personnel should remain covered at all times except when ordered to uncover or during religious services not associated with a military ceremony; thus, unless ordered to uncover, personnel shall remain covered during invocations or religious portions of military ceremonies, or at events such as changes of command, ship commissioning, launchings, military burials, etc. The Chaplain conducting the religious portion of the ceremony will be guided by church customs with respect to wearing of head covering. Caps are normally removed indoors. NOAA Corps officers may remove caps when traveling inside a private automobile, but covers are mandatory when entering or within a military reservation.

Part 1 – General Uniform Information

12107 UNIFORM MATERIAL

- A. Uniform coats, shirts, trousers or skirts, belts, and garrison caps (if worn) shall be made of matching material. The mixing of types of fabric is prohibited.

12108 CIVILIAN CLOTHING

- A. Civilian clothing may be worn on leave or liberty; when leaving or returning to a ship, office or other work site; or in any off-duty status in port. NOAA Corps officers shall ensure their civilian dress and personal appearance is appropriate for the occasion and will not bring discredit upon the NOAA Corps.
- B. Only the uniform articles listed below are authorized for wear (without insignia) with civilian clothing:
 - (1) All-Weather coat/raincoat, blue;
 - (2) belts with civilian buckles;
 - (3) flight boots;
 - (4) command ball cap;
 - (5) gloves;
 - (6) handbags;
 - (7) black jacket;
 - (8) khaki windbreaker jacket;
 - (9) brown leather or green NOMEX flight jacket;
 - (10) black, four in hand necktie;
 - (11) shoes; and
 - (12) sweaters.

Part 1 – General Uniform Information

12109 NOAA CORPS OFFICERS ON DUTY WITH OTHER SERVICES

- A. NOAA Corps officers assigned to duty with other uniformed services shall wear the NOAA Corps uniform equivalent to that prescribed for personnel of the service concerned.
- B. NOAA Corps officers who are transferred to the Armed Forces by Executive Order may wear, with the approval of the service concerned, the uniform of the service to which they have been transferred, and shall comply with the uniform regulations of such service.
- C. NOAA Corps officers visiting military installations in uniform shall wear the NOAA Corps equivalent of the designated Uniform of the Day, unless circumstances of the visit render the designated uniform impractical or inappropriate.

PART 2 - Officer Bearing and Grooming Standards

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Part 2 – Officer Bearing and Grooming Standards

12201 NOAA CORPS OFFICER BEARING

- A. The wearing of the NOAA Corps uniform should be a matter of personal pride to all NOAA Corps officers. NOAA Corps officer bearing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) proper uniform;
 - (2) neat appearance;
 - (3) proper personal grooming and hygiene;
 - (4) personal posture;
 - (5) appropriate civilian attire when not in uniform;
 - (6) proper conduct and interaction with public officials and private citizens; and
 - (7) personal health and fitness.
- B. Placing hands in pockets, smoking, eating, or drinking while in uniform as a pedestrian detracts from the appearance and is inappropriate.
- C. Public display of affection (hand holding, embracing, etc.) while in uniform detracts from the appearance and is inappropriate.

12202 GENERAL GROOMING STANDARDS

- A. Grooming standards are based on several elements, including neatness, cleanliness, safety, and appearance. The standards established herein are not intended to be overly restrictive. The primary consideration is to present a neat appearance while wearing the uniform.
- B. Articles such as pens, pins, jewelry, handkerchiefs, pipes, etc., shall not be worn or carried exposed upon the uniform, except as authorized in these Directives.

Part 2 – Officer Bearing and Grooming Standards

12203 GROOMING STANDARDS (MALE)

- A. Hair will be neat, clean, and well groomed. Hair shall be no longer than 4 inches.
 - (1) Hair above the ears and around the neck shall be tapered from the lower hairline upwards at least 3/4 inch and outwards not greater than 3/4 inch to blend with hairstyle. Hair may not touch the ears or collar, extend below eyebrows when headgear is removed, or interfere with the proper wear of uniform headgear. The bulk of the hair (the distance that the mass of hair protrudes from the scalp) shall not exceed 2 inches. Hair in front shall be groomed so that it does not fall below the band of properly worn headgear.
 - (2) Hair coloring must look natural and compliment the individual. Faddish or outrageous multicolor hair is not authorized.
 - (3) The unique quality and texture of curled, kinked, waved, and straight hair is recognized, and in some cases the 3/4 inch taper at the back of the neck may be difficult to attain. In those cases hair must present a graduated appearance and officers may combine the taper with a line at the back of the neck.
 - (4) Varying hairstyles are permitted if these styles meet the criteria of maximum length and bulk, tapered neck and sides, and do not interfere with properly wearing military headgear. Plaited or braided hair shall not be worn while in uniform or in a duty status.
- B. Sideburns, if worn, shall be neatly trimmed and tailored in the same manner as the haircut. Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the earlobe, shall be of even width (not flared) and shall end with a clean-shaven horizontal line. "Muttonchops," "ship's captain," or similar grooming styles are not authorized.
- C. Mustaches, if worn, will be kept neatly and closely trimmed. The face will be clean-shaven. No portion of the mustache shall extend below the lip line of the upper lip. In addition, it will not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth and no more than 1/4 inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth. The length of an individual mustache hair fully extended will not exceed 1/2 inch. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, beards, or eccentricities are not permitted.

Part 2 – Officer Bearing and Grooming Standards

- D. Hairpieces or wigs, if worn while in uniform, shall be of good quality and fit, present a natural appearance, and conform to the grooming standards set forth in these Directives. They shall not interfere with the proper performance of duty or present a safety hazard.
- E. Fingernails shall not extend past the fingertips. They shall be kept clean.
- F. Jewelry in good taste is authorized as outlined below:
 - (1) One ring per hand, plus a wedding ring, is authorized.
 - (2) One necklace may be worn but it may not be visible.
 - (3) Earrings are not authorized for men in uniform. Body piercings are not authorized.
 - (4) One wristwatch and/or one bracelet may be worn. Ankle bracelets are not authorized.

12204 GROOMING STANDARDS (FEMALE)

- A. Hair will be clean and neatly arranged. When in uniform, back hair may touch but not fall below the lower edge of the collar.
 - (1) No hair shall show under the front brim of the combination or garrison cap. Conservative hairstyles are permitted, but exaggerated styles, including those of excessive fullness or extreme height, are not authorized. In no case shall the bulk of hair interfere with the proper wear of uniform headgear.
 - (2) Pins, combs or barrettes similar in color to the individual's hair color may be worn. Hair ornaments such as ribbons are not authorized.
 - (3) Hair coloring must look natural and compliment the individual. Faddish or outrageous multicolor hair is not authorized.
- B. Hairpieces or wigs, if worn while in uniform, shall be of good quality and fit, present a natural appearance, and conform to the grooming standards set forth in these Directives. They shall not interfere with the proper performance of duty or present a safety hazard. Visible hair nets may be worn only if authorized for specific duty.
- C. Cosmetics, if used, shall be applied in good taste so that colors blend with natural skin tone and enhance natural features. Exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles shall not be worn with the uniform.

Part 2 – Officer Bearing and Grooming Standards

- D. Fingernails shall not exceed 1/4" measured from the fingertip. Nail polish, if worn, shall be of a neutral color.
- E. Jewelry in good taste is authorized as outlined below:
 - (1) One ring per hand, plus a wedding and/or engagement ring, is authorized.
 - (2) One necklace may be worn but it may not be visible.
 - (3) One earring per ear, centered on the earlobe, is authorized. Earrings shall be small gold-colored balls, pearls, or diamond stud as specified in these Directives. Body piercings are not authorized.
 - (4) One wristwatch and/or one bracelet may be worn. Ankle bracelets are not authorized.

PART 3 - Special Circumstances

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Part 3 – Special Circumstances**12301 TRAVEL**

- A. When traveling in uniform Service Dress Blue may be worn during any season of the year. This uniform is authorized, when in a travel status, for periods of actual travel, and for wear during the conduct of business at the destination.
- B. Commuting is when taking a direct route between place of residence and place of work. Commuting is not considered travel for the purposes of this section. The prescribed or alternate Uniform of the Day may be worn when commuting. Working uniforms may not be worn under any circumstances involving interaction with the public (i.e., aboard public transportation, while running errands, etc.).
- C. When traveling domestically and in uniform, wear either the prescribed or alternate Uniform of the Day for destination or point of departure, or service dress blue as authorized in section A above. To conduct business at the destination, wear either the prescribed or alternate Uniform of the Day for that area, or service dress blue.
 - (1) The black v-neck pullover sweaters are authorized for travel with service dress blue and service khaki. The blue garrison cap is authorized for travel with service dress blue only when wearing a black v-neck pullover sweater and/or the black jacket.
 - (2) The blue windbreaker jacket is not authorized for travel with service dress.
 - (3) Windbreaker jackets and garrison caps, as authorized in these Directives, are authorized for travel with the winter blue, summer white, and service khaki uniforms.
- D. When traveling to and in foreign countries in an official capacity, a low profile shall be maintained. Service Dress Blue is the preferred uniform while on foreign travel, however, the uniform worn will be dictated by the business the NOAA Corps officer is engaged in while in a foreign country.

12302 MATERNITY

- A. Maternity uniforms are required for all pregnant women in the NOAA Corps when a uniform is prescribed and regular uniforms no longer fit. Pregnant women may wear outer garments (raincoat, overcoat, reefer, etc.) unbuttoned if they no longer fit properly when buttoned.
- B. The only difference between regular and maternity uniforms is the proportion of the fit. Components, optional items, and occasions for wear are described in Part 5 of this chapter.

Part 3 – Special Circumstances

- C. Maternity uniforms authorized include Dinner Dress Blue, Full Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue, Winter Blue, Summer White, Service Khaki, and Working Khaki.

12303 FUNERALS

- A. NOAA Corps officers attending funerals in uniform shall wear service dress blue or service dress white, as appropriate, unless directed otherwise by local competent authority.
- B. NOAA Corps officers shall wear mourning badges when serving as honorary pallbearers at military funerals, or when attending military funerals in an official capacity. NOAA Corps officers attending other funerals may wear mourning badges. Mourning badges shall be worn on the left sleeve of the outer garment, halfway between the shoulder and elbow. Badges shall be made of black crepe, 3 inches wide and sufficiently long to fit around the arm.
- C. NOAA Corps officers may be required to wear white gloves at military funerals. NOAA Corps officers may wear white gloves at other funerals, but shall do so only during the actual ceremonies unless white gloves are an authorized part of the uniform being worn.

12304 RETIRED NOAA CORPS OFFICERS

- A. Retired NOAA Corps officers not on active duty may wear the prescribed uniforms of the grade held on the retired list at ceremonies or official functions when the dignity of the occasion and good taste dictate. Wearing a uniform is appropriate for memorial services, weddings, funerals, balls, patriotic or military parades, ceremonies in which any active or reserve United States uniformed component is participating, and meetings or functions of military associations.
- B. Retired NOAA Corps officers are prohibited from wearing the uniform in connection with personal enterprises, business activities, or while attending or participating in any demonstration, assembly, or activity for the purpose of furthering personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues.
- C. Retired NOAA Corps officers not on active duty, residing in or visiting a foreign country, shall not wear the uniform except when attending, by formal invitation, ceremonies or social functions at which the wearing of the uniform is required by the terms of the invitation or by the Directives or customs of the country.

Part 3 – Special Circumstances

- D. The uniform worn by retired NOAA Corps officers may be as prescribed herein or as authorized at the time of retirement. Retired NOAA Corps officers in uniform shall comply with the grooming standards prescribed for active-duty NOAA Corps officers.
- E. Retired NOAA Corps officers ordered to active duty shall wear the uniform prescribed for officers on active duty.
- F. Retired NOAA Corps officers may wear miniature medals and breast insignia on civilian evening dress (white tie) or civilian dinner dress (black tie) in the same manner as on dinner dress jacket uniforms.
- G. Miniature replicas of ribbon bars or ribbons made in rosette form may be worn on the left lapel of civilian clothes other than evening or dinner dress.

12305 OTHER SITUATIONS

- A. The following guidelines are provided for officers planning or participating in weddings in uniform.
 - (1) Attire
 - (a) Groom and Best Man - May wear either civilian attire or uniforms corresponding to accepted civilian customs, i.e., tuxedo equates to Dinner Dress Jacket, business suit equates to Service Dress, etc.
 - (b) Bride and Maid-of-Honor - May wear either civilian attire or uniforms corresponding to civilian customs.
 - (c) Ushers and Bridesmaids - Uniformed participants should all wear the same uniform, which may be different from those worn in subparagraphs (1) (a) or (1) (b) above.
 - (d) Immediate Family - Uniformed participants wear uniforms that correspond to subparagraphs (1) (a) or (1) (b) above.
 - (e) Guests - Wear appropriate service dress uniforms.
 - (2) Swords are not usually carried in a house of worship, but the sword belt without scabbard may be carried with full dress uniforms with end clips fastened together. For this occasion, if you plan to form an arch of swords through which the bridal party will pass, draw swords outside the house of worship.

Part 3 – Special Circumstances**B. Unique Uniform Combinations**

- (1) With the approval of the senior NOAA Corps officer present, NOAA Corps officers may wear unique uniform combinations to other services' functions when officers of the sponsoring service will be wearing uniforms not normally authorized for NOAA Corps officers. Two examples are service dress blue (Yankee) (white trousers (men)/white slacks or skirt (women) with the service dress blue coat) and tropical dinner dress blue (white short sleeve shirt with blue trousers (men)/blue skirt (women) and gold cummerbund).